



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/814,708

03/31/2004

Oscar Miramontes

ZIL-574

7207

47713

7590

02/23/2006

SILICON EDGE LAW GROUP LLP
6601 KOLL CENTER PARKWAY, SUITE 245
PLEASANTON, CA 94566

EXAMINER

GOINS, DAVETTA WOODS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2632

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 7-10, 14, 15 and 21-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-6, 11, 13 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Huang et al. (US Pat. Application 20040070491 A1).

In reference to claims 1-5, 11, 13, 17-20, Huang discloses the claimed method of receiving a programming signal onto an RFID reader in a remote control device, wherein the programming signal conveys a “complete” codeset, which is met by a universal remote control 10 is provided with appliance activated setup capability whereby the universal remote control 10 may be setup by appliances to command functions of the appliances, illustrated as a TV set 14 and a VCR 15. The radio signals may be emitted from the universal remote control 10 in response to activation

Art Unit: 2632

of a "setup" button of the universal remote control. The electromagnetic field produced by the antenna 102 can be limited in range so as to allow the universal remote control 10 to control the number of RFID tags to be read (page 4, column 2). During setup of the universal remote control 10, a consumer, purchases a VCR 15, the system described with respect to FIG. 1 may instruct that the user: a) plug an appliance (e.g., the VCR 15) into a power source; b) hold the universal remote control 10 close to the appliance; and c) press the power button to turn the appliance on. When the appliance then "powers on," the appliance provides device code data to the universal remote control 10 by means of a squawk signal to thereby cause the universal remote control to set itself up to command functions of the appliance (page 2, column 2; Figure 4). In addition, the universal remote control 10 is adapted to receive the RFID tag data, decode it, and use the **data to select command codes to thereby set itself up to command functions of the appliance** (complete codeset).

In reference to claims 6, 16, Huang discloses the claimed RFID transponder that is part of an electronic consumer device, which is met by the RFID is attached to TV set 14 and VCR 15 (page 2, column 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. in view of Collins et al. (US Pat. 6,392,544 B1)

In reference to claims 12, although Huang does not specifically disclose the claimed capacitor, wherein the capacitor and the coupling element together form an LC circuit, which is met by communications between illustrated devices may be performed using infrared (IR) transmissions and/or other transmission mediums such as radio frequency (RF), inductive coupling, visible light (e.g., modulating a TV picture signal) (page 2, col. 1). RFID tags comprising an RF transceiver IC chip 1020 programmed with a product identification, together with a coil 1010 which serves both as an antenna and to gather power from the signal generated by the reading device (i.e., in the case of a "passive" or reader powered tag) (page 2, column 1). Collins discloses a system including a plurality of electrostatic antenna elements 122a-i are disbursed selectively onto shelves 102. Electrostatic antenna elements 122a-i are shown in FIG. 1 vertically disbursed, but are alternatively horizontally or otherwise disbursed or distributed. The active areas 130a-e are areas selected to have respective adjacent electrostatic antennas energized to read articles with RFID tags in the active areas 130a-e. For example, if a first electrostatic antenna element 122a and a second electrostatic antenna element 122b are energized with a potential difference, that is, one being connected to a first potential terminal of a RFID exciter circuit and the other being connected to a second potential terminal of the exciter circuit, then an electric field is generated generally around active area 130a such that articles 112, which have RFID tags 132, are excited and energized via capacitive coupling to return data to an exciter. Since Huang discloses a system that includes an RF reader that uses

Art Unit: 2632

inductive coupling, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of using a capacitor and coupling the element together form an LC circuit, as disclosed by Collins, with the system of Huang, as another means for ensuring that the reader reading the codes associated with the tag.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Examiner's Note:

The programming of a codeset by Huang et al. (above) teaches the concept of a programming signal onto an RFID reader in a remote control device, wherein the programming signal conveys a codeset. The word "complete" doesn't further limit the claim to overcome the prior art (see rejection above). However, the amended claims that have been objected to include claim

Art Unit: 2632

limitations that teach what the "complete" codeset includes. Therefore, these claims include language that has been objected to and include allowable subject matter.

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Davetta W. Goins whose telephone number is 571-272-2957. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri with every other Fri. off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Wu can be reached on 571-272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Davetta W. Goins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2632



D.W.G.
October 2, 2005